

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose a clamping device for a shoelace wherein a protrusion is movable between a first position wherein the slider is free to move to a clamping position and a second position wherein the protrusion extends over an upper transverse edge of a base such that movement of the shoelace in a shoelace pulling direction causes the protrusion to move from the second position to the first position in combination with all the claimed structural limitations found in independent claims 17, 24, and 29.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL LEE whose telephone number is (571)270-5735. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00 Alternate Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on 571-272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. L./
Examiner, Art Unit 3677

/Victor Batson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3677